(a) whether there is separate voters' lists for Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would bring any amendment/new legislation to bring uniformity in voters' lists for Lok Sabha, Assemblies, local bodies and Nagar Palikas to strengthen the democratic set up and remove irregularities in elections; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under article 243K of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State is empowered to make provisions with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to the Panchayats. Similarly, under article 243ZA of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State is empowered to make provisions with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to the Municipalities. These laws would *inter alia* include provisions relating to the preparation of electoral rolls for elections to the respective bodies.

Hence, it is, for the State Legislatures to make laws for adopting the electoral laws of the Assembly constituencies for the purpose of elections to Panchayats and Municipalities.

Irregularities in voters' lists

1919. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that names of a large number of legitimate voters are removed from the voters' lists and thus they are deprived of casting votes in Assembly elections in various States;

(b) the details of the complaints received regarding irregularities in voters' lists during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the steps Government proposes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disclosure of wealth by Judges

1920. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many countries in the world, including the US, have legislation which mandates Judges to make public disclosure of wealth; and

(b) if so, the reason for his Ministry shielding Judges and not making public disclosure of wealth by Judges mandatory?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is considering to bring in a comprehensive legislation on the issue of standard and accountability of Judges which will, *inter alia*, deal with the subject of declaration of assets and liability by Judges.

Functioning of NALSA

1921. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons benefited through legal aid services in the country, State-wise, during the last two years;

(c) the number of those belonging to SC, ST and women category; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to popularize NALSA among the people especially in the rural areas?.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is having its headquarters at New Delhi. The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA, Senior Judge of the Supreme Court of India (Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarun Chatterjee) is the Executive Chairman of NALSA. Under NALSA, 35 State Authorities are working in all States and Union Territories. The Chief Justice of the High Court is the Patron-in-Chief and senior most Judge of the High Court is the Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authorities. There are 596 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) all over India under the Chairmanship of the District Judge. There are 2010 Taluk Legal Services Committees functioning in Taluks where the senior most Judicial Officer of the Taluk is the Chairman. Members of these Authorities and Committees are nominated by the appropriate Government. These Authorities and Committees provide free legal services to the persons mentioned in Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 *i.e.* Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Caste, women, children, victims of trafficking and beggars, victims of mass-disasters, victims of ethnic violence, industrial workmen, persons in custody in jails, juvenile homes and psychiatric hospitals. Besides, persons whose annual income is below Rs.50,000/- also are entitled to free legal services. Apart from legal services, NALSA, State Authorities and Taluk Committees implement various projects as per the directions of NALSA and as per its National Plan of Action for spreading legal awareness and also for preventive and strategic legal aid.